

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

Applicants' attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended on March 16, 2006.

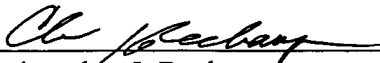
Claims 18-20 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Iachetta, Kelley and Heil. The Advisory Action notes that the office action is taking a broad interpretation of coupling and indicates that the claims are drafted too broad to overcome the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully note that the relevant independent claims have been amended to indicate that the claimed I/O controller is directly coupled to the high speed bus arbiter, such as through a high speed bus, as shown for example, in FIG. 1. The structure of Iachetta does not show the high speed arbiter 710 of Iachetta, which is alleged to correspond to Applicants' high speed arbiter, and the structure 810 of Iachetta, which is alleged to be the claimed I/O controller, coupled as required by the claim. Accordingly, the claims are in condition for allowance. In addition, claim 24 requires that the data storage device that is coupled to the claimed I/O controller is coupled via a second high speed bus to transmit data at a higher rate than the data rate of the low speed bus arbiter. (See for example, page 6, second paragraph of Applicants' Specification). Accordingly, the claim is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The dependent claims add additional novel and non-obvious subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 3/16/06

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